

Saturday, January Sixteenth, 1915.

SOMERS HELPS JOHNSON WITH MANY THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS
AT A TIME WHEN AMERICAN LEAGUE NEEDED SUPPORT
IN ORDER TO SURVIVE AND GROW; NOW SOMERS
HIMSELF IS IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE.

BY FRANK G. MENKE.

NEW YORK, Jan. 14.—Do you think that Johnson and his American league colleagues will answer the "80,000" call of Charles Somers, owner of the Naps, and "under the old that he needs?"

It's one of the big questions of the hour in a baseball way and the odds seem to be about ten to one against Johnson or anyone else in the league slipping out to Somers, who is in financial difficulties.

Something like 14 years ago, when Johnson was acting as Comiskey's agent in the game, he and his partner, J. Edgar, found that very few men were willing to risk their wealth in what looked like a big hazard. One of the few men who did find was Charles Somers of Cleveland.

Johnson told Somers what he had to offer. He told Somers how much money was needed, and Somers went almost to the limit of his wealth in making the American league possible. He took a franchise in Cleveland. He hired high priced talent. He got the best men he could get and he paid huge salaries. Johnson wanted to place a team in Boston. He couldn't interest Boston capitalists in the idea. Somers came to the rescue. He unstrapped his pocketbook and let Ban dip in as deep as he wanted to.

Somers helped him. "I've got some," said Somers, after Ban had placed a team in Boston. "I've got some," said Somers, after Ban had placed a team in Boston. "I've got some," said Somers, after Ban had placed a team in Boston.

Often during the early days of the American league's battle for "life," money was needed. And just as often as it was needed, Somers was there with the money. Had the American league come to the wall, it probably would have carried Somers with it. But Somers was there. He took it. And now the American league is in a position to carry on. It has a committee of bankers was appointed to take charge of its financial affairs. The war and general business de-

FEDERALS WOULD BRING PLAYERS INTO BIG SUIT

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 16.—Asking that the scope of the suit brought by the Federal league against organized baseball be widened to include the individual players in the Federal league as well as the league itself, Les Marras, manager of the Brooklyn Federals, petitioned the United States district court Friday afternoon for leave to file an intervening petition in the case.

The Brooklyn manager adopted the petition of the Federal league in its original bill and according to his own statement raised the same question as the league's suit but from the player's viewpoint. He asked the court especially to adjudicate the relation which a player holds to organized baseball.

JOCKEY BACK FROM GERMANY. Jockey Teddy Rice, who recently returned from Germany, where he has been riding, has signed a contract to ride for the Corriean & McKinney stable. This stable has recently established a large breeding farm in Kentucky. James Corriean and Prior McKinney have been in the city several days.



Skating has been fine in president Wilson's backyard, or rather the big public park just to the rear of the white house, this winter, and the young government employees, among whom there are many athletes, have developed a new sport—baseball on ice. It is played quite like the ordinary baseball, except that all the players wear skates and "spiking" is extra bad form. A home run is easy, if the ball ever gets past the outfield. The shaft of Washington monument is seen at the extreme left of this picture.

WORST CLASS OF TEAM
ANOTHER ALL AMERICAN LINE

Here Is How to Make Up a Team of the Pitchers Who Did the Wildest Twirling, the Catchers Who Muffed Most Balls and the Fielders and Basemen Who Pulled Most Bonehead Tricks in a Season.

BY ERNEST J. LANIGAN.

Red Corriden was figuring the cost of living. "The cost of living," he said, "I do not get the money that I should. According to my figuring, I'd be a millionaire. If I could sell the boots I make for thirty cents a pair."

A mutually critical select All American team composed of the best baseball and football players, but heretofore the experts have not tried to pick an all star combination of diamond heroes who bring gridiron tactics into play while the championship races are being run. It is easy enough for a doer to find the finest track in the country by keeping track of the number of runs he has made. One of his most productive players, the opportunist error maker by taking account of the total of tallies he kicks in.

Humorist Phair picked as the subject of his poem the champion "booster" of the diamond in "Red" Corriden of the Cubs. Lozano's (Ind.) favorite son ranking first in both major leagues in presenting runs to the enemy. He gave the Cubs' adversaries twenty counts last year by boots, muffs and throws. One of his most productive players (for the other fellows) came on September 3, in the fifth inning of the game with the Pirates, when three men crossed the plate because of an inaccurate throw.

The Worst Battery. Corriden's companions on this mythical all muffering team are like himself, in slight degree of being released. Most of them are stars, even if they do have a habit of erring at the worst possible time. The battery of the opportunist error making team of the big leagues would be composed of Les Marras of the Cubs and Ray Schalk of the White Sox. The big spital expert handed over thirteen runs to his team's opponents through an error, nine through one on a Red Cross complimentary, those three gifts of course, being donated when the bases were loaded. Cheney lost a 1 to a game to the Pirates on May 6 when he exuded a wild pitch while trying to pass Ham Hyatt. On

Blowoff Day, in the contest with the Red Sox, Ray uncoiled four wild pitches and his successor, Elmer Koestner, rid his system of one. On battery misplays that afternoon the White Sox assembled six of their ten pitchers. Cheney had been competing to make the champion All American muffering team, "Rube" Benton, J. Weldon Wyckoff and Zerah Zerkel Hagerman, running strongly. The Redlegs gave away eleven runs. One of Benton's wild pitches cost him a shutout. Hagerman lost a thirteen-inning box battle with Eddie Plank by a wild throw and Wyckoff helped him along by dishing out five passes in a row.

Champion Error Catcher. Ray Schalk's closest competitor among the backstops was "Chief" Meyer. The Chicagoan, by errors, let his team's opponents acquire seventeen runs. This catcher was charged with the bases of three runners. American league hurlers who wild pitched the winning run over were Ray Keating (twice), Walter Johnson, Bill James, Ray Caldwell, Ray Fisher, lefty James, Jim Shaw, Eddie Cicotte and Joe Bush. Larry Cheney, Leon Ames, "Rube" Marquard and Jeff Dill were the National League artists who acted similarly.

In the National, Jeff Pfeffer, Jim Vaughn, Wilbur Cooper and Dick Crutcher forced in runs that decided battles by losing passes when the bases were stocked and Rankin Johnson, Joe Bush and Ray Fisher were guilty of the same performance in the American.

Below will be found the leader on each major league club in giving away runs. National League. Braves—Gowdy, 8—all on errors. Cubs—Corriden, 30—all on errors. Reds—Benton, 12—three on errors, five on wild pitches, four on passes. Pirates—Meyer, 12—all on errors. Phillies—Meyer, 11—all on errors. Cardinals—Rock, 9—all on errors. Yankees—Meyer and Peckinpaugh, 7—all on errors.

White Elephants—Wyckoff, 10—all on errors. Three on wild pitches, five on passes. Red Sox—Scott, 9—all on errors. Senators—Moeller and Johnson, 9—all on errors; Johnson's, one on error, seven on wild pitches and one on pass.

Tigers—Bush, 12—all on errors. Browns—Pratt, 12—all on errors. White Sox—Schalk, 17—all on errors, two on passed balls. Naps—Hagerman, 18—all on errors, two on wild pitches, three on passes and one on hit batsman. (Copyright, 1915, by Ernest J. Lanigan.)

Weaver of the White Sox eleven. Sherwood Magee had the habit of making untimely errors, when stationed at shortstop, he cleared the bases of three runners. American league hurlers who wild pitched the winning run over were Ray Keating (twice), Walter Johnson, Bill James, Ray Caldwell, Ray Fisher, lefty James, Jim Shaw, Eddie Cicotte and Joe Bush. Larry Cheney, Leon Ames, "Rube" Marquard and Jeff Dill were the National League artists who acted similarly.

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MANY CITIES WILL SEND CROWDS TO SEE GIBBONS-CLABBY FIGHT

Both Men Are Pastmasters in Boxing, Have Developed Knockout Punch, and Are Fast and Clever Thinkers; Rivers, for Frequent Loser, Has Made More Money than Anyone Else; Cleans Up \$336,400.

By T. S. ANDREWS.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Jan. 16.—With interest in middleweight boxing again on the increase, as a result of the excellent contests between Jack Dillon and Young Ahearn, and Eddie McGearty and Billy Murray, the coming bout between the champion, Jimmy Clabby, and the contender, Mike Griffith, before the Cream City Athletic club, in the gymnasium at Milwaukee, January 21, is attracting unusual attention. There are probably more boxing fans in the world today than Gibbons and Clabby, and it looks like the clamorous contest on the books for the winter season.

These stars have met in the ring several times before, but only when they were budding and breaking into the ring. They were afraid of one another then, but now it is different. Clabby has a reputation to defend and Gibbons has ambition to become world's champion in the middleweight division. Both are pastmasters at the boxing art, and both have developed what is termed a knockout punch during the past two years, so that it will not be a case of clever work alone; it will be a case of power. Griffith, who will call off the fight, is a clever and fast fighter, but he will give away about five to seven pounds to the champion, the same as Charlie White gave away when he met Freddy in the Milwaukee auditorium recently. White is also matched with Welsh in New York for January 26, but the latter is asking for catchweights, the same as for Griffith, and Nate Lewis, manager of White, says nothing doing. Lewis demands that Welsh make weight as agreed or he will call off the fight. Griffith will give Welsh a hard battle, even at catchweights, but he would stand a much better chance if the weights were even.

Ahearn's Manager Is Active. Dan McKetrick, manager of Young Ahearn, the eastern middleweight, is determined to get the topnotch fighters to meet his protégé or know the reason why. I am just in receipt of the following letter from Daniel McKetrick to the Chicago Tribune, dated January 16, makes a resolution to meet Young Ahearn for the title and not take a chance on a lot of four-fighters, begin the new year right and meet real fighters.

Clabby and Gibbons are both great fighters, but the winner can add to his laurels by meeting a European champion and thus take a chance of becoming world's champion. Ahearn is a legitimate title holder in Europe and has a right to demand a match from the fighter who claims the title in this country. The winner of the Clabby-Gibbons contest at Milwaukee, January 21, makes a resolution to meet Young Ahearn for the title and not take a chance on a lot of four-fighters, begin the new year right and meet real fighters.

Will Depend on Condition. Now that the date of the Jack Johnson-Jess Willard title match has been decided on—March 6, at Juarez, Mexico—it will be up to the promoters to make the boxing fans of this country take notice of the white hope. Had Willard been sent against some of the big heavies the past six months and scored decisive wins he would have been a much stronger card. So one will deny that Willard is a giant in strength and that he carries a powerful wallop, but against a clever fellow like Johnson, will he have a chance to land that wallop? If Willard could be taught a defense like Tommy Ryan Jeffries he might hold Johnson off for 10 or 15 rounds and take a chance at tying the negro man and then go in to win, but Jess so far has not shown any such defense. It will depend on the condition of the fighters. If Jack is still able to get in shape he should be a three to one shot; if not, then Willard may win the title back to the white race.

Rivers Great Money Earner. For a fighter who never held a championship, Joe Rivers, the Los Angeles lightweight, has made a name for himself and not Mexican as generally believed, has earned as much, if not more, than any fighter of his weight class. It is doubtful whether Paet McFarland, the Chicago prize, can claim a better record as a money earner. A peculiar thing about Rivers' career in the ring is that he never boxed for a winner's and loser's end of the purse, although he has taken part in two championship matches and has always received a guarantee for his contests when away from home. That makes his manager, Joe Levy, a former Chicago boy, look pretty good as a financial manager. Joe started as a money earner in 1911 and in four years' time he has taken in \$26,400—not far from the half million mark. His greatest "sale" was when he fought Al Volgaist for the title, drawing \$1,000. He drew \$30,000 when he fought Willie Ritchie for the championship. To go along and earn that amount of money in so short a time would indicate that Joe has delivered the goods in all his matches, which has always made him a good card for return bouts.

List of Earnings. A list of his biggest matches may be of interest at this time. They are as follows: With Al Volgaist, lost 13 rounds, \$10,000; Willie Ritchie, lost 13 rounds, \$10,000; Joe Mandot, won 13 rounds, \$20,000; K. V. Brown, won 13 rounds, \$20,000; Joe Mandot, lost 20 rounds, \$15,000; Leach Cross, won 20 rounds, \$15,000; Freddy Welsh, lost 20 rounds, \$15,000; Leach Cross, no decision, \$15,000; Al Volgaist, no decision, \$15,000; Frankie Conley, won 11 rounds, \$12,000; Johnny Klappa, lost 14 rounds, \$12,000; Joe Coster, won 13 rounds, \$12,000.

rounds, \$12,000. He had 14 more contests which netted him \$24,000, bringing the total up to \$216,400. Most of the bouts Rivers has fought in California, which showed him to be a pretty strong "home boy" or native son, as many call it. Now manager Joe Levy and his protégé are going to "do" the middle west, south and east, as the same as for Griffith, and the west state is killed for this present. After making trips to New Orleans and Memphis and also Milwaukee, the fight, and his manager, will go east and try to get some of the plums at Madison Square garden.

Soft for Welsh. Pretty soft for the champion Freddy Welsh, the lightweight for this bout, has closed a match with Johnny Griffith, of Akron, Ohio, for February 1 at catchweights, and will hand down for his and a guarantee of \$4,000, with a privilege of 15 percent of the gross receipts, besides paying transportation. Griffith is a clever lad and fights at 125 pounds flustered, so that he will be giving away about five to seven pounds to the champion, the same as Charlie White gave away when he met Freddy in the Milwaukee auditorium recently. White is also matched with Welsh in New York for January 26, but the latter is asking for catchweights, the same as for Griffith, and Nate Lewis, manager of White, says nothing doing. Lewis demands that Welsh make weight as agreed or he will call off the fight. Griffith will give Welsh a hard battle, even at catchweights, but he would stand a much better chance if the weights were even.

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Billy Evans's Puzzle Plays

Written Especially For This Paper by the Famous American League Umpire.

IN several occasions last year it was necessary for the umpire to penalize careless players for throwing their glove at the ball. I know of two cases which came under my own observation, both of which proved very costly for the team having the player who committed the offense. In the first instance, nothing was gained by such action. I know of only one case where a player, after throwing his glove at a ball, was able to stop the course of the ball that he could make the catch before the ball touched the ground. The fact that the rules forbade such a thing rendered the rather instantaneous event useless. In fact, the penalty inflicted probably allowed the batsman to advance a base further than he would have been able to reach had he hit. Recently, I received a letter which asked for information on the two players I have just commented upon. I quote the query:

Difference in Rules. "Last season I saw players on a number of occasions throw their glove at the ball; sometimes it was a little ball, other times a three ball. Twice I saw players penalized for their actions, but the penalty was different in the two cases, although to me the offense seemed the same. In one instance, since the player has no right to detach his glove and throw it at the ball, it seems to me that the player who so violates the rules should be punished whether or not the glove comes in contact with the ball. For the sake of me, I cannot see why a difference should be made on a thrown ball and a batted ball. Will you not explain to me why the rule makers inflict a two base penalty when the glove comes in contact with a thrown ball and a three base penalty when the thrown glove strikes a batted ball?"

Considered Ground Conditions. It is my humble opinion that the rule makers took ground conditions into consideration before reaching their decision as contained in the rule books. On the average enclosed park, it is seldom that the runner is able to get more than two bases on a wild throw. On a ball that goes to the stand, two bases is about the limit. If the ball is thrown to the fence, the stands and rebound quickly, it is often possible to hold the runner to one base. Should the ball go into the stands, the runner is often able to break up the glove at the ball at which a glove is thrown and strikes would only entitle the runner to two bases if it is a foul ball. The rule makers evidently decided that the maximum penalty would be severe enough when the player blocked a throw, but he was not able to hit it.

Reason for Larger Penalty. On batted balls there is no limit to the bases that might be made, except on balls that are hit into the fence. The regulation distance. When a ball is batted out of the bench of infielders or outfielders, and one of these players, either in anger or disgust, throws his glove at the ball, blocking the course of the ball, it removes much of the uncertainty that centers around such a practice. A three base penalty is placed on the offense. Personally, I have always thought the mere throwing of the glove should be punished regardless of the result. Often a kick is raised over the offense, and sometimes it is rather difficult to decide whether the player is guilty or not. How does the idea to penalize the player, whether the glove strikes the ball or not, appeal to you, Mr. Fan? (Copyright, 1915, by the Wheeler Syndicate, Inc.)

As long as you have to buy, buy where you get the benefit of the reaction—buy goods "Made in El Paso."

Even Bat Nelson Tries To Come Back
Would Deprive Welsh Of His Title

BY J. G. BRANN.

ALL of them try the come back stuff, sooner or later, in the ring game. There probably has never been a champion at any weight who, after losing the championship, has not tried to return and regain his lost laurels. The latest to make a bid in this role is Battling Nelson, one of the gamiest fighters that ever donned four ounce gloves, and undoubtedly the toughest lightweight that ever stepped into a ring. It would really be pathetic to see poor, game old Bat set back into the game only to be beaten up, as he undoubtedly would be, by a bunch of second raters. Bat has lots of coin, having invested the money he earned in the ring in real estate and other paying propositions. And as he doesn't need the coin, his friends should prevent him from trying the comeback. There is no question that Bat is in earnest for he is even now negotiating with promoter Billy Gibson for a finish with Freddie Welsh for the championship, the bout to take place at Havana.

We will have to wait it to Bat for at least spring as the winter usually put up: "I am as good as I ever was," etc. In speaking of his wish to fight again, Nelson says: "I am not foolish enough to say that I am as good as I ever was."

Special Prices ON SIGNS —for— "Made in El Paso" 414 Mesa Ave. Phone 1432

Bill's Going to Get Married and the Nutshe Is Going to Take Pace About the Middle of Feb.

Writes Steve He Is Going to Take His Wife on the Training Trip for a Honeymoon; He's Awful Busy Getting Ready to Bribe the Preacher.

BY RING W. LARDNER.

CHICAGO, Jan. 16.—Steve: I can't hardly wait till you get this letter. Steve on acct. of the news I got to tell you & that is that I & the little girls going to get married & the nutshe is going to take pace about the middle of Feb. or some time & when I start south on the training trip I will take my wife with me for a honeymoon.

I got so much to do I don't know where to start at but the little thing I got to do is get some dough money off the club & then I got to go to a tailor & get some close made & all fixed up & buy the deuce & bribe the preacher & then I got to go to do I don't know where to start in.

Is All Fixed Up. It was all fixed up the night before last & I & the little girl had went to an other dance & after words we stopped in on the way home & had a few drinks & I got feeling pretty good so I made the proposition & she was tickled to death.

But you will ball to fix it up with the old man she says. I says that all right I will do that tomorrow & she says O no I can't wait till tomorrow we will wake him up when we get home because he been to Judge tonight & probably got home late any way.

So when we got home to her house sure enough she woke up her old man & he come out in the hall with his night gown & says what the matter are you stood & I says he & he says you got a hole lot of nerve waking me up at this hour of night do you want to borrow some money & may be had of Jones & some other the little girl baled in &

Wakes the Old Man Up. So the old man says if you wake me up out of bed to tell me some funny story you ain't going to get no dough out of me & I says they nothing funny about this story & he says well hurry up & what do you want & I was all choked up with a cold & couldn't say nothing for a while but finally I got my throat cleared out & says I and Gussy was going to get married & he says you are you & Gussy says yes if you don't have no objection & the old man says the only objection I got is being woke up out of bed at this hour of the night & the next time you get bad news send it in the paper & I will read about it in the n & Gussy begins to cry & says what you going to give us your consent.

Evidently Tickles the Old Man. & the old man says sure you can have my consent if that's all you after he cause I got to support this young man I rather he was 1 or the family so you see Steve he is tickled to death to see me in the house.

So the old man was shivering & run back to bed & they don't never keep the house warm enough in winter but they were working better because it's a new house. The old man build it him self that is he paid to get it build & had some body else to build it for him & he says he wouldn't sell it for \$7000 & \$500 dollars the lot inclusive.

Set Up "THE BUBBLING AND GASSING." Well I and Gussy set up till a n billing & soon & its grate stuff Steve. We laid out all the plans for the wedding & of course Gussy done most of that & the wedding going to be pulled off at the house either at night or in the m or a long a bout noon & its going to be a bout the biggest thing pulled off in Chi this yr unless we win the pennant like was ought to be in Bresnanian to get a hold of a 20. base man.

It's to bad he couldn't get Eddie Collins instead of the white Sox. Gussy was in a awful hurry to have the wedding & I guess he must of thought that I would jump the contract if he didn't make me right a way but I says when he says he'll buy all them close now they'll be all shot to pieces & wore out by the middle of the season & besides we got already in the middle of winter my close will all half to be winter close & I won't have nothing left to wear a round N. Y. city & them boys will be in the middle of the season & about the middle of next mo. or a little later may be just before the training trip starts out & then if I have the goods I will make a couple of difference because we will only be a round Chi a couple days & then go south where its warm.

When I take the train, on that training trip I guess some of them ball players will wish they had saw her last Steve.

Well Steve I'm to much excited to write any more now but I wanted to tell you the news & you can tell the pool a round home & I can't help feeling sorry for Jess but when a man up in the big league you can't wait no time on minor league stuff girls or any thing else, oh Steve, Heppy.

Gussy had some others taken & I will send you 1 if you will be care full of it & send it back but I want the boys to see what kind of a girl I picked out.

Spent Your Money for WINES, LIQUORS OR LUNCH GOODS unless you need them—try KEEVL'S Phone 105. 520 N. Stanton.